United Nations S/2008/702

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 November 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 10 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour of writing to you in your capacity as the President of the Security Council for the month of November 2008 to request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and the annex joint declaration of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, dated 2 November 2008, as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 10 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Joint Declaration of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, Meiendorf Castle, Moscow Province, 2 November 2008

The Presidents of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, having met on 2 November 2008 in Moscow at the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation,

Having held substantive and comprehensive discussions in a constructive spirit on the current status and prospects for a political settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict through continued direct dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan mediated by the Russian Federation, the United States of America and France as Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group,

1. Declare that they will work towards improving the situation in the South Caucasus and establishing stability and security in the region through a political settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, on the basis of the principles and norms of international law and the decisions and documents adopted in this framework, which will create favourable conditions for economic development and comprehensive cooperation in the region;

2. Affirm the importance of the continued mediation efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, taking into account the outcome of the meeting of the parties in Madrid on 29 November 2007 and the subsequent discussions on the further development of the main principles of a political settlement;

3. Agree that the peaceful settlement must be accompanied by legally binding international guarantees for every aspect and stage of the settlement process;

4. Note that the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed to continue their work, including during further contacts at the highest level, to reach an agreed political settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and have instructed their respective foreign ministers to take further action in the negotiation process in liaison with the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group;

5. Consider it important to support the creation of favourable conditions for taking confidence-building measures in the context of the efforts to reach a settlement.